

## Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-05 /090 W  
----- 086465

R 221247Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4027

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

/COMIDEASTFOR

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10377

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MMOL, MU, IR, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS ON IRANIAN NAVAL ACTION

IN OMAN

REF: TEHRAN 10307

1. IN OCTOBER 21 DISCUSSION OF RECENT DHOFAR FIGHTING, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR COTTAFAVI TOLD POLCOUNS HE HAD IT FROM "HARD" SOURCE THAT DURING EARLY SEPTEMBER VISIT TO IRAN (TEHRAN 8695) SULTAN QABUS HAD ASKED AND RECEIVED SHAH'S AGREEMENT TO USE IRANIAN NAVAL FORCES IN COMBINED OPERATIONS WEST OF RAKHYUT. COTTAFAVI WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THESE OPERATIONS BECAUSE VOSPER-CLASS SHIPS WHICH TOOK PART WERE EQUIPPED WITH ITALIAN SEA KILLER SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES AND RAPID FIRE GU I. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION WHETHER THEY HAD BEEN USED IN BOMBARDMENT PF CAVES WEST OF RAKHUT, POLCOUNS STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT HAVE COMPLETE STORY OF ACTION HE THOUGHT OTHER WEAPONS SUCH AS 5 INCH 38'S CARRIED BY PARTICIPATING SHIPS WOULD BE MORE

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APPROPRIATE FOR SHORE BOMBARDMENT.

2. COTTAFAVI SAID ITALIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WAS SO HARD UP FOR FUNDS THAT IT HAD DECLARED SEA UILLER OPERATIONAL AFTER ONLY TWO TEST LAUNCHES AND HAD THEN SOLD IT TO IRANIAN NAVY. HUNDRED OR MORE PRACTICE FIRINGS BY IRANIANS HAD SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED IT TO BE GOOD WEAPON, HE ADDED WRYLY.

MIKLOS

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## Message Attributes

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